

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 021451
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:JLH
APPROVED BY S/S-MR.TARNOFF
-----036212 262141Z /61
O 262100Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 021451

NODIS
CHEROKEE EYES ONLY FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 962 ACTION SECSTATE 26 JAN 78

QUOTE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0962

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2
TAGS: PEPR MILI XA IR SA UR CU
SUBJ: EFFORT TO OPEN CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO MENGISTU

REF A. STATE 20233 B. STATE 18370

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1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF OUR ACTIONS
CONCERNING THE HORN OF AFRICA SO THAT I CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO
THE CONTINUING IRANIAN INTEREST IN THAT REGION. AT THE
CURRENT MOMENT, THERE IS SOME SENSITIVITY HERE ON THE SUBJECT
BECAUSE OF THE SHARP, PERSONALIZED REACTION FROM ADDIS ABABA
TO THE SHAH'S RATHER CASUAL PUBLIC STATEMENT MADE AFTER THE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT HERE.

2. AFTER DELIBERATE CONSIDERATION, I HAVE DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO INFORM THE SHAH AT THIS TIME OF OUR EFFORT TO OPEN A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO MENGISTU. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE MESSAGE IS RATHER CRYPTIC. WE ALREADY HAVE EMBASSIES FUNCTIONING IN BOTH CAPITALS AND I WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO EXPLAIN TO THE SHAH WHAT FURTHER ACTION THE MESSAGE IMPLIES. IN THE SECOND PLACE, OUR PURPOSE IN THIS EFFORT IS UNCLEAR AND WOULD, PERHAPS, CAUSE THE SHAH MORE CONCERN THAN IT WOULD GIVE HIM SATISFACTION.

3. I HAVE SIMILARLY REFRAINED FROM BRIEFING THE SHAH ON THE REPORT (REF B) OF THE FIVE-POWER MEETING IN WASHINGTON BECUASE IT DID NOT SEEM TO ME THAT THE LINES OF DIRECTION FOR SUBSEQUENT ACTION WERE ADEQUATELY CLEAR. THE VARIOUS BILATERAL APPROACHES DO NOT APPEAR TO REPRESENT TECTICAL CONSENSUS.

4. IN SHORT, I FEEL IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL TO BRIEF THE SHAH WHEN I CAN PRESENT HIM WITH SOME CLEAR CONCEPTUAL VIEW OF OUR INTENTIONS NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THE INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ALSO WITH RESPECT TO THEIR EVENTUAL OUTCOME, BOTH IN TERMS OF A CONTEMPLATED STATUS FOR THE OGADEN AND THE ELIMINATION OF EXTRA-CONTINENTAL MILITARY PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA.

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TM REQUEST THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR WEST.
SULLIVAN
UNQUOTE VANCE".

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CHEROKEE 1-26-78
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Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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